

**REMARKS**

Claims 25-39 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

**35 U.S.C. §112**

Applicants request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection under this section. Although claim 25 recites the delaying of a second request of multiple requests, dependent claim 31 specifies a condition in which the multiple requests are handled in parallel. Claim 31 has been amended to clarify this point.

**35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 25-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by DeKoning et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,824). These rejections are traversed as follows.

In order to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended to clarify a feature of the present invention in which the control unit is controllable to allow or

delay a read request or a write request sent from a host computer which has no exclusive control function, by controlling allowance or delay of the read request or the write request based on information received from the host computer with the read request or the write request. This way, it is not necessary for the host computer to be provided with the capability of checking whether or not a file is being used (see specification, page 3, lines 2-9).

On the other hand, DeKoning et al disclose quite the opposite situation. According to DeKoning et al, exclusive control is executed after an intelligent I/O host processor checks the status of disks through a file lock request (see column 2, line 42 to column 3, line 8). Furthermore, in Fig. 1 of DeKoning et al, a storage subsystem 100 is shown coupled to host systems 112 by bus 150. The host systems 112 include adapters 102 which exchange information amongst themselves to coordinate file lock services (see column 5, lines 54-67). Each adapter 102 includes a file lock element 104 to provide file lock services by exchanging information over the commonly attached bus 150.

The present invention avoids the need for host computers with such functionality. Instead, the present invention permits a control unit of an array system to be controllable to allow or delay a read or write request sent from a host computer which has no exclusive control function, as claimed. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

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**Request for Interview**

Applicants request the Examiner to conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution. In this regard, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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